

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 26-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 10-13, 15, 17 and 26 are amended; claims 18-21 are canceled and claims 29-33 are added. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-21 and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tanimoto, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0156923, in view of Shigeru, JP A 2002-091856. Claims 18-21 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. The rejection with respect to claims 1-17 and 26-28 is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 calls for an operation detecting unit configured to detect, in a state that the portable operation member is inserted into the opening of the interface unit, that the portable operation member is directly operated by a user. Claim 17 calls for similar features. Claim 26 calls for a computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions for detecting an operation of a detecting unit, the operation caused by insertion of a portable operation member into an opening of an interface unit of the communication system. Applicants respectfully assert that none of the applied references disclose these features.

As admitted on page 3 of the Office Action, Tanimoto fails to disclose a portable operation member inserted into the opening of an interface unit. Consequently, one of ordinary skill in the art could not reasonably interpret Tanimoto as disclosing an operation detecting unit configured to detect, in a state that the portable operation member is inserted into the opening of the interface unit, that the portable operation member is directly operated by a user because an operation detecting unit cannot be configured to detect something that is not disclosed.

Further, Applicants respectfully assert that Shigeru fails to overcome the deficiencies of Tanimoto. The Office Action, on page 4, alleges that Shigeru's IC card corresponds to Applicants' portable operation member; however, nothing in Shigeru teaches or suggests an

operation detecting unit that is directly operated by a user. The Office Action, with respect to previously submitted claim 3, appears to allege that Shigeru inherently discloses an operation detection system because Shigeru is able to read an IC card. However, nothing in Shigeru teaches or suggests that the IC card is directed operated by a user. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art could not reasonably interpret Shigeru as teaching or suggesting an operation detecting unit configured to detect, in a state that the portable operation member is inserted into the opening of the interface unit, that the portable operation member is directly operated by a user.

Dependent claims 2-16, 27 and 28 are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully assert that new claim 29 is patentable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. New claims 30-33 call for an operation of the operation detecting unit including depression of the portable operation member by a user. Applicants respectfully assert that none of the applied references teach or suggest depression of the portable operation member by a user.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Request for Continued Examination

Date: December 1, 2008

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